barren land. On the north it is crossed by the Pāndū; and two small streams, the Puraha and Ahneya, unite and then join the Arind, which also flows across it. This is the most fertile *tahsīl* in the District. In 1903–4 the area under cultivation was 204 square miles, of which 116 were irrigated. A distributary of the Cawnpore branch of the Lower Ganges Canal supplies the north of the *tahsīl*, and the Etāwah branch of the same canal the southern portion. Canals serve nearly half the irrigated area, and wells most of the remainder.

Bihār.—Historic name of one of the four sub-provinces which make up the Lieutenant-Governorship of Bengal, the remaining three being Bengal proper, Orissa, and Chotā Nāgpur. It lies between 23° 48′ and 27° 31′ N. and 83° 20′ and 88° 32′ E., and includes the Divisions of PATNA and BHĀGALPUR. The area is 44,259 square miles and the population (1901) 24,241,305. Bihār occupies the north-west corner of Bengal, and is bounded on the north by Nepāl, on the west by the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, on the south by the Chotā Nāgpur plateau and the Burdwān Division, and on the east by the Rājshāhi Division. It is divided into North and South Bihār by the broad stream of the Ganges, and consists for the most part of an alluvial plain, though in the south detached outliers of the Chotā Nāgpur plateau encroach upon the level, extending at Monghyr as far north as the Ganges itself. The south-Ganges Districts of Patna, Gayā, and Shāhābād comprised the ancient kingdom of MAGADHA, the capital of which was first at Rājgīr, 30 miles north-east of Gayā, and subsequently at Pātaliputra (Patna), and which is best known in connexion with the great Maurya kings Chandragupta and Asoka. North of the Ganges was MITHILĀ, which was a great seat of Sanskrit learning as early as 1000 B.C., and included the modern Districts of Darbhangā, Champāran, and North Muzaffarpur; the south of the latter District comprised the small kingdom of VAISALĪ. Sāran District formed at this time part of the great kingdom of the Kosalas of Oudh, while the eastern Districts of Monghyr, Bhāgalpur, and Purnea as far as the Mahānandā river belonged to the kingdom of Anga. It was in Magadha that Buddha developed his religion, and the sub-province derives its name from the town of Bihār, which means a Buddhist monastery (*vihāra*). It was here also that Mahāvīra founded the cognate creed of the Jains. The early history of Bihār is detailed in the article on BENGAL. The sub-province did not become a separate unit of administration until early in the thirteenth century, when it came into the hands of the Muhammadans, and was by them formed into a *Sūbah*. In Todar Mal's settlement of 1582 it was divided into eight *sarkārs*, corresponding with the modern Patna Division and the Districts of Monghyr and Bhāgalpur; the remainder of the Bhāgalpur Division was included in the *Sūbah* of Bengal.

Bihār differs from Bengal proper in almost every respect. The

extremes of temperature are far greater, so that it is colder in the winter and hotter in the summer, and the climate is drier than in Bengal. The soil is for the most part old alluvium and is not fertilized by annual deposits of silt from the great rivers, as in Bengal; it is lighter and more friable, and grows a greater variety of crops. The rainfall is lighter, starts later, and is more capricious, and the crops are more liable to suffer from drought. The population is denser than in Bengal generally, and the people are hardier and healthier, though not so prosperous. No less than 82 per cent. of the people are Hindus, as compared with 46 per cent. in Bengal; and, especially in the west of the sub-province, the inhabitants are far more largely of Aryan stock than in Bengal proper. The language spoken is Hindī. The most important places are the ancient cities of PATNA, GAYĀ, BIHĀR, and MONGHYR; the towns of MUZAFFARPUR, CHAPRĀ, DARBHANGĀ, and BHĀGALPUR; and SONPUR, the scene of a great annual bathing festival.

Bihār Subdivision.—Southern subdivision of Patna District, Bengal, lying between 24° 57′ and 25° 26′ N. and 85° 9′ and 85° 44′ E., with an area of 791 square miles. Owing to plague its population in 1901 was only 602,907, compared with 608,672 in 1891, the density being 762 persons per square mile. The greater part of the subdivision is a low-lying alluvial plain, which is broken to the south by the Rājgīr hills. It contains one town, BIHĀR (population, 45,063), its head-quarters; and 2,111 villages. Bihār town is supposed to have been the capital of the ancient kingdom of Magadha. The neighbourhood contains interesting Buddhist remains, chiefly at BARAGAON, where numerous mounds bury the ruins of Nālanda (a famous seat of learning in the days of the Pāl kings), GIRIAK, and RĀJGĪR. PĀWAPURI contains three Jain temples. HILSĀ, near Patna station on the East Indian Railway, is an important market.

Bihār Town.—Head-quarters of the subdivision of the same name in Patna District, Bengal, situated in 25° 11′ N. and 85° 31′ E., on the Panchāna river. It is supposed to have been the capital of the ancient kingdom of Magadha, but its early history is involved in obscurity. The remains of an old fort covering 312 acres of ground contain a profusion of ruined Buddhist and Brāhmanical buildings, which prove the site to be a very old one. Among these may be mentioned the remains of the great *vihārā* or college of Buddhist learning, from which the town has derived its name. Many ancient Muhammadan mosques and tombs are also found in the city, the most important of which is the tomb of Shāh Sharīf-ud-dīn Makhdūm. The population, which was 44,295 in 1872, increased to 48,968 in 1881, but fell again to 47,723 in 1891, and to 45,063 in 1901; of the last number 29,892 were Hindus and 15,119 Musalmāns. Bihār is connected by a light railway with Bakhtiyārpur on the East Indian Railway. It was constituted a muni-

cipality in 1869. The income during the decade ending 1901–2 averaged Rs. 23,000 and the expenditure Rs. 22,000. In 1903–4 the income was Rs. 32,000, including Rs. 19,000 derived from a tax on persons (or property tax) and Rs. 6,000 from a conservancy rate; and the expenditure was Rs. 31,000. Bihār contains the usual public buildings; the sub-jail has accommodation for 25 prisoners.

[*Epigraphia Indica*; *Archaeological Survey of India*, vol. ii, pp. 291–4; *Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal*, vol. xxxvii, p. 7, and vol. xii, p. 300.]

Bīhat.—Petty *sanad* State in Central India, under the Bundelkhand Agency, with an area of about 16 square miles. It lies between the Jhānsi and Hamīrpur Districts of the United Provinces. Population (1901), 3,984. The *jāgīrdār* is a Bundelā Rājput, whose ancestors originally received a grant of seven villages from Hirde Sāh, son of Mahārājā Chhatarsāl of Pannā, the grant being continued during the government of Alī Bahādur of Bāndā. When the British supremacy was established, Dīwān Aparbal Singh was found in possession of seven villages, and Dīwān Chhatrī Singh in possession of Lohārgaon (which together now make up the eight villages of the holding), and *sanads* continuing these grants were conferred on them in 1862. The present *jāgīrdār*, Rao Mahum Singh, succeeded in 1872. Of the total area, 7 square miles are cultivated; and the revenue is Rs. 13,000. The chief town, Bīhat, is situated in 25° 25′ N. and 79° 21′ E., on the east bank of the Dhasān, 10 miles by country track from Harālpur on the Jhānsi-Mānikpur section of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway.

Bihiyā.—Village in the head-quarters subdivision of Shāhābād District, Bengal, situated in 25° 33′ N. and 84° 28′ E., on the East Indian Railway, 382 miles from Calcutta. Population (1901), 764. Bihiyā is best known for the manufacture of iron sugar-cane mills, which are now in general use throughout Northern India.

Bihora.—Petty State in REWĀ KĀNTHA, Bombay.

Bijā (*Beja*).—One of the Simla Hill States, Punjab, lying between 30° 53′ and 30° 55′ N. and 76° 59′ and 77° 1′ E., with an area of 4 square miles. Population (1901), 1,131. The present chief, Thākur Pūran Chand, is a minor, and the administration is conducted by a council. The State has a revenue of Rs. 500, out of which Rs. 124 is paid as tribute.

Bijāpur Agency.—An Agency in the Southern Marāthā Country, Bombay, under the supervision of the Collector of Bijāpur District, who is *ex-officio* Political Agent. It comprises the Sātāra *jāgīr* of Jath and the small State of Daphlāpur. The latter, which has an area of 96 square miles, is an integral part of the State of Jath, to which it will lapse on the demise of the widow of the late chief. The Agency lies between 16° 50′ and 17° 18′ N. and 75° 1′ and 75° 31′ E.,